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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|---|---|---|
| Applicant(s) | : | Nippon Sheet Glass Company, Limited |
| Serial Number | : | To be Assigned |
| Filing Date | : | Concurrently Herewith |
| Filing Date | : | November 26, 2003 |
| For | : | BIOCHEMICAL VESSEL |

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November 26, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 2-4 without prejudice.

Add claims 5-9 as follows:

1. (original) A biochemical vessel having a plurality of sample holding cells juxtaposed one next to another, each cell having a light transparent bottom, wherein each sample holding cell includes, in its inner side, a light reflecting face

which extends radially away from the axis of the cell as the reflecting face extends downwards.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (new) The biochemical vessel according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of an inner peripheral face of the sample holding cell is formed as the light reflecting face which extends radially away from the axis of the cell as the reflecting face extends downwards.

6. (new) The biochemical vessel according to claim 5, wherein the sample holding cell is formed by bonding one side of a plate-like member to a light transparent substrate, the plate-like member having a through hole whose diameter increases toward said one side thereof; and at least a portion of an inner peripheral face of the sample holding cell is formed as the light reflecting face which extends radially away from the axis of the cell as the reflecting face extends downwards.

7. (new) The biochemical vessel according to claim 1, wherein the light reflecting face is formed as a mirror finished surface.

8. (new) The biochemical vessel according to claim 5, wherein the light reflecting face is formed as a mirror finished surface.

9. (new) The biochemical vessel according to claim 6, wherein the light reflecting face is formed as a mirror finished surface.